**Application No.:** 10/577,401 **Docket No.:** 5000-0166PUS1

**REMARKS** 

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to improve

their language.

. .

Conclusion

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action

on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg.

No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an

effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies

to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew D. Meikle

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